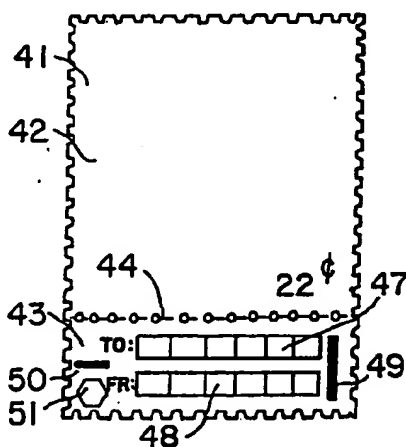




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁴ : B07C 5/00	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 89/ 01831 (43) International Publication Date: 9 March 1989 (09.03.89)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US88/02705 (22) International Filing Date: 11 August 1988 (11.08.88) (31) Priority Application Number: 090,839 (32) Priority Date: 28 August 1987 (28.08.87) (33) Priority Country: US (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: MIKHAIL, Ameer, G. [US/US]; 2103 Windom Court, Bel Air, MD 21014 (US). (81) Designated States: AT (European patent), BE (European patent), CH (European patent), DE (European patent), FR (European patent), GB (European patent), IT (European patent), JP, LU (European patent), NL (European patent), SE (European patent), SU.		Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>With amended claims and statement.</i>

(54) Title: POSTAL STAMP, PROCESS, APPARATUS, AND METERING DEVICE THEREOF



(57) Abstract

The invention relates to the fields of postal stamps, automated postal sorter machines, sorting processes, and postal metering devices. The prior art of postal stamps and processing systems failed to provide for automatic sorting and processing without replacing the usual stamp with a machine printed decal thus: 1) depriving the ordinary stamp user from using the system which requires a special stamp printing machine, and 2) destroying the philatelic nature of the stamp for the hobby of stamp collecting. The invention solves these problems by providing a multi-part stamp where machine readable data are entered by the ordinary user without the need for a special machine. One portion of the stamp (42) includes the ordinary stamp attributes thereon and another portion (43) carries marking indicia (47) and (48) which are to be filled with the information of the points of origin and destination. The stamp portions may be separated along lines of perforation, resulting in one piece being the typical unaffected stamp collected by millions of stamp collectors. In addition, automatic postal sorting apparatus, sorting process, and a metering device which all use the new features of the invented stamp are introduced to facilitate the implementation of the automatic sorting of mail.